MARVEL COMICS

PETER PARKER™ SPIDER-MAN®

MARVEL PG 45 139

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delgado

THERE'S NOWHERE TO RUN, NOWHERE TO *HIDE.*

A DEATH IN THE FAMILY

PART TWO

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IT'S EVERYWHERE I GO:

HIS *FACE.*

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THE GOBLIN'S EYES ARE BURNED INTO MINE. I CAN SMELL HIS BREATH AT EVERY MOMENT, HOT AGAINST MY CHEEK.

HIS LAUGHTER ECHOES INTO MY HEART -- PASSION-FILLED AND PASSIONLESS AT THE SAME TIME.

IT'S THE SOUND OF A TORTURER AND MURDERER TRYING TO DISGUISE HIMSELF AS A ***CLOWN.***

AND EVERY DAY -- JUST AT THE MOMENT I LEAST EXPECT IT -- I'M REMINDED OF WHAT ***HAPPENED:***

WE'RE UP ON THE BRIDGE... I'M BREATHING HARD... MY BREATH'S STALE AGAINST THE COLD FABRIC OF MY MASK.

I HEAR A RUSHING OF AIR... A CACKLING DREDGED UP FROM THE DEEPEST RECESSES OF A MADMAN'S PSYCHE.

I LOOK UP AND SEE THAT HE HAS ***GWEN.***

IT'S A MOMENT FROZEN IN ***TIME.***

EVER SINCE THAT DAY, HE'S BEEN HERE WITH ME. I'M BEGINNING TO THINK HE ALWAYS *WILL* BE, LIKE A CHILDHOOD MONSTER IN A DARK CLOSET.

BUT JUST WHEN I THOUGHT HE'D DONE IT *ALL* BY TAKING AWAY THE INNOCENT GIRL I LOVED, HE WAS BACK TO HAUNT ME AGAIN.

THIS TIME, HE *WANTED* SOMETHING FROM ME -- HE SAW ME AS HIS ONLY WORTHY SON AND HEIR, SUCH AN AMUSING ADVERSARY I'D BEEN.

JUST FOR A MOMENT, I THOUGHT ABOUT ACCEPTING. HE ALMOST *HAD* ME, WHETHER I LIKE TO ADMIT IT OR NOT.

IN TURNING HIM DOWN, I ASSUMED I'D SEEN THE WORST OF IT.

BUT I DIDN'T THINK EVEN *HE* WAS CAPABLE OF *THIS* --

PLAY

HA HA HA HA HA HA

AH HA... HEHH... THERE'S SOMETHING STICKING IN MY THROAT.

AS YOU KNOW, I CAN SOMETIMES BE A BIT OF A SCALAWAG -- I'LL FREELY ADMIT TO THAT, OF COURSE. BUT YOU SEE, I AM NOT AS BAD -- OR AS **GREEN** -- AS I'M PAINTED.

I WANT YOU ALL TO CAST YOUR MINDS BACK TO AN INCIDENT BETWEEN MYSELF AND SPIDER-MAN THAT TOOK PLACE ON THE BROOKLYN BRIDGE A FEW YEARS AGO...

FILE FOOTAGE

WE HAD KIND OF A HOSTAGE/HERO STANDOFF THING GOING -- IT WASN'T TOO DIRE A SITUATION, AND THERE WAS NO IMMEDIATE DANGER TO THE GIRL I'D KIDNAPPED. IT WAS MERELY A MATTER OF BUSINESS.

OF COURSE, I WARNED SPIDER-MAN OF THE CONSEQUENCES SHOULD HE APPROACH WITHOUT MY DEMANDS HAVING BEEN MET. I WAS IN A RATHER **UNSTABLE** MOOD THAT AFTERNOON, AND NOT TO BE TRIFLED WITH.

FILE FOOTAGE

FILE FOOTAGE

ONE MAY QUESTION SPIDER-MAN'S MOTIVES AND MY UNPREDICTABLE TEMPERAMENT IN THAT KIND OF SITUATION. HE CHOSE TO **IGNORE** ME, THUS PUTTING AN INNOCENT YOUNG WOMAN IN PERIL.

HE ATTACKED BEFORE I KNEW WHAT WAS HAPPENING.

IN THE MELEE THAT FOLLOWED, A TERRIBLE **TRAGEDY** OCCURRED.

REALIZING THE GIRL HAD FALLEN, I NATURALLY MADE A COURSE CORRECTION ON MY GLIDER IN AN ATTEMPT TO SAVE HER. I BEGAN AN IMMEDIATE DESCENT.

BUT BEFORE I HAD A CHANCE TO REACH HER, SPIDER-MAN DID SOMETHING INCREDIBLY **STUPID:** DESPITE THE SPEED OF HER FALL, HE CHOSE TO CATCH HER WITH THAT RUBBER WEBBING OF HIS.

IN THE NEXT INSTANT, HER NECK WAS SNAPPED LIKE A ROTTEN TWIG.

IF I WERE THAT YOUNG LADY'S HUSBAND OR BOYFRIEND, I WOULD NEVER FORGIVE THAT MASKED MANIAC FOR WHAT HE DID.

SPIDER-MAN **KILLED** THAT POOR GIRL AS SURE AS I STAND HERE BEFORE YOU --

KRASH

SEEYA NEXT TIME, FLASH. REMEMBER: ONE DAY AT A *TIME*, PAL --

SURE, TOMMY. SEEYA LATER.

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS MEETING TONIGHT CHURCH OF OUR LADY OF SERENITY 7PM THINKING IT THROUGH

HELLO, FLASH. HOW HAVE YOU BEEN?

OH, UH... HEY, MISTER OSBORN. WHAT BRINGS YOU OUT TO THESE PARTS?

I'VE BEEN GIVING A LOT OF THOUGHT TO MY SON, HARRY, LATELY. I KNOW YOU AND HE WERE FRIENDS.

AND, OF COURSE, YOU'VE BOTH HAD YOUR *DIFFICULTIES*. HOW HAVE YOU BEEN *COPING*, SON?

YOU KNOW HOW IT IS, MISTER O: I BEEN TRYIN' TO KEEP ON THE STRAIGHT AN' NARROW. THINGS ARE KINDA *TIGHT* RIGHT NOW, BUT I AIN'T DOIN' TOO BAD --

WELL THAT'S COMMENDABLE, FLASH. BELIEVE ME, I KNOW HOW HARD A CHEMICAL DEPENDENCY CAN BE.

THAT'S WHY I'VE COME HERE TONIGHT, MY BOY: IN THE SPIRIT OF FRIENDSHIP, KNOWING HOW CLOSE YOU WERE TO HARRY, AND ALL.

I HAVE A JOB OFFER FOR YOU.

...NOW, WHILE MANY PEOPLE ARE SAYING THE VIDEO FOOTAGE IS INCONCLUSIVE, OTHERS FEEL THE GREEN GOBLIN MAY ACTUALLY BE TELLING THE TRUTH THIS TIME.

I HAVE WITH ME NOTED CRIMINOLOGIST DOCTOR ANDREW MCCULLOUGH. DOCTOR MCCULLOUGH, WHAT CAN WE READ INTO THIS LATEST REVELATION?

WELL, WE SHOULD BE VERY CAREFUL WHEN TRYING TO DETERMINE THE MOTIVES OF A SELF-CONFESSED MURDERER LIKE THE GOBLIN. GIVEN HIS UNSTABLE HISTORY, ONE IS INCLINED TO TAKE HIS ACCUSATIONS WITH A PINCH OF SALT.

NEVERTHELESS, ONE MIGHT ASK, "WHY THIS ACCUSATION AND WHY **NOW**?" IS THIS MERELY A MATTER OF RECTIFYING AN INJUSTICE FROM A MAN WHO FREELY ADMITS TO HIS OWN CRIMINAL BEHAVIOR, OR IS IT SOMETHING MORE?"

OH, PETER...

A GOOD QUESTION INDEED: BLACK AND WHITE, OR TINGED WITH GREEN AND RED? ARE THE HEROES BECOMING THE **VILLAINS** IN THEIR QUEST FOR JUSTICE?

MORE AFTER THESE MESSAGES...

"...OH, YES... HA HA! THREE INCHES SHORT OF A DOUBLE EAGLE..."

"...THE JAPANESE MARKET CANNOT BE OPENED LIKE A DOOR -- IT MUST BE OPENED LIKE A FIST..."

MISTER OSBORN -- YOU HAVE BEEN A MOST GRACIOUS HOST THIS EVENING. DARE WE IMPOSE ON YOU TO SAY A FEW WORDS ON THE MATTER OF TODAY'S SESSION?

OF COURSE, MISTER HAMAGACHI. I CHERISH THE RELATIONSHIP BUILT THESE LAST FEW YEARS BETWEEN OSBORN INDUSTRIES AND THE TANAKA CORPORATION.

I RECOGNIZE THE EXCELLENT SPIRIT OF TEAMWORK AND COOPERATION WITH WHICH YOU HAVE CONDUCTED YOURSELVES, AND HOPE TO USE THAT MODEL AS INSPIRATION FOR MY EMPLOYEES DURING THE COMING MERGER.

A TOAST, THEN: TO TEAMWORK --

NORMAN!

WHAT'S THE MATTER, OSBORN? SURPRISED TO SEE ME HERE?

THAT'S CLOSE ENOUGH, SUNSHINE --

GO AHEAD, TOUGH GUY. MAKE MY DAY --

DON'T WORRY, RAY -- I KNOW THIS BOY.

GOOD EVENING, PETER. I REMEMBER A TIME WHEN YOU USED TO CALL ME *MISTER* OSBORN.

TIMES CHANGE.

QUITE.

GENTLEMEN, I'D LIKE YOU TO MEET MISTER PARKER: HE WAS A GREAT FRIEND AND OLD COLLEGE CHUM OF MY DEARLY DEPARTED SON, HARRY.

PETER'S A SCHOOLTEACHER NOW... AT THE SAME SCHOOL HE ATTENDED AS A CHILD.

I SUPPOSE IT'S TRUE WHAT THEY SAY, HUH, PETER? SOME OF US NEVER STRAY TOO FAR FROM WHAT MAKES US FEEL COMFORTABLE.

AND SOME OF US GO WAY TOO *FAR*, HUH, MISTER OSBORN?

IF YOU GENTLEMEN WILL EXCUSE US... PETER AND I HAVE A LITTLE CATCHING UP TO DO. THIS WON'T TAKE A MOMENT.

WHAT THE HELL DO YOU THINK YOU'RE *PLAYING* AT, YOU LITTLE PUNK?

HEY, YOU BRING THE FIGHT TO ME, I'LL BRING IT RIGHT BACK.

THIS IS A DANGEROUS GAME YOU'RE PLAYING, SON. DO YOU THINK YOU CAN HANDLE THE PRESSURE?

DO YOU SEE ME TREMBLING?

I CAN GET TO YOU ANYTIME, ANYWHERE.

BRING IT *ON*, YOU PIECE OF DIRT.

WAY AHEAD OF YOU, SOLDIER BOY.

WHAT'S THE *POINT* OF THIS? WHY THIS, AND WHY NOW?

YOU *KNOW* THE POINT: I'M TRYING TO ENCOURAGE YOU TO MAKE BETTER DECISIONS FOR YOURSELF.

WE'VE BEEN ALONG THIS ROAD, NORMAN. I'M NOT INTERESTED IN WHAT YOU HAVE TO OFFER --

THEN WE'RE AT AN IMPASSE, PETER. ONE OF US IS GOING TO HAVE TO *DIE* -- YOU KNOW THAT. ALL THIS WAITING AROUND IS GIVING ME AN ULCER, SO I'VE DECIDED TO HURRY THINGS ALONG.

IT DOESN'T HAVE TO *BE* THIS WAY --

=AHEM=... PERHAPS THE YOUNG MAN WOULD LIKE TO JOIN US FOR DINNER, OSBORN-SAN?

I'M AFRAID NOT. PETER HAS A SCHOOL DAY TOMORROW.

YOU WERE JUST LEAVING, WEREN'T YOU, PETER?

YEAH... SORRY, GUYS. I'M BEGINNING TO FEEL A LITTLE SICK --

OH, AND PETER... DO GIVE MY REGARDS TO YOUR NEAREST AND DEAREST WON'T YOU? ESPECIALLY YOUR DEAR OLD AUNT AND THAT LOVELY WIFE OF YOURS.

YOU ARE STILL MARRIED TO THE REDHEAD, AREN'T YOU?

HEY --!

HIYA, JONAH. LONG TIME NO SEE.

HOW COME YOU NEVER RETURN MY CALLS?

WHAT DO YOU WANT, YOU MENACE?

YOU KNOW, I HEARD UNDERNEATH THAT WALRUS ACT, YOU'RE A PRETTY DECENT NEWSMAN AT HEART. AT LEAST, THAT WAS A RUMOR SOMEONE ONCE TOLD ME.

HOW THE HECK WOULD *YOU* KNOW, SPIDER-MAN? IN CASE YOU HADN'T HEARD, THERE'S MORE TO A NEWSPAPER THAN A PAGE OF COMICS AN' THE SPORTS SECTION.

WHATEVER.

THIS JUST MAKES YOU A *LIAR.*

SPIDER-MAN IMPLICATED

YOU KNOW SOMETHIN' I DON'T? THEN PERHAPS YOU'D LIKE TO SHARE YOUR EVIDENCE WITH THE REST OF THE GROUP --

DON'T GIVE ME THAT CRAP. YOU KNOW THE GOBLIN'S CLAIM ABOUT THAT INCIDENT ON THE BROOKLYN BRIDGE IS A BUNCH OF HORSE MANURE.

WHAT, YOU THINK YOU'RE GONNA SCARE ME INTO CHANGING MY MIND, SPIDER-MAN? YOU GOT A PRETTY HIGH OPINION OF YOURSELF FOR A MAN WHO SPENDS HIS LIFE HIDING BEHIND A MASK.

AS OPPOSED TO WHAT -- HIDING BEHIND A DISINGENUOUS EDITORIAL?

OKAY. SO TAKE OFF THE MASK.

YOU KNOW I CAN'T DO THAT, JONAH.

NO, I DON'T.

THWIP

ALL YOU GOTTA DO IS TAKE OFF THE MASK -- YOU HEAR ME, YOU LITTLE FREAK?

TAKE IT OFF, AN' I CHANGE *"IMPLICATED"* TO *"EXONERATED"*!

PLEASE... DON'T DO THIS...

...I'M BEGGIN' YOU...

NN-UHH! D'UNN --

GHUHH!

FORGE

WHAT'S THE MATTER, FLASH? I THOUGHT WHISKEY WAS YOUR ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE OF CHOICE. DON'T TELL ME YOU'VE LOST THE *TASTE* FOR IT.

WELL, DON'T WORRY, OLD BEAN: A DRINKING MAN SUCH AS YOURSELF GETS THOSE OLD URGES BACK PRETTY QUICKLY. THAT'S THE BEAUTY OF ALCOHOLISM -- IT'S LIKE RIDING A BIKE! AH-HEE HA!

FILL HIM UP, BOYS! MAKE SURE HE'S GOOD AND TOASTY BY THE TIME WE SEND HIM ON HIS WAY, EH?

PLEASE... WHY ARE YOU DOING THIS?

BE THANKFUL IT'S ONLY *WHISKEY*, YOU LITTLE FREAK.

NOW DO YOU HEAR ME, SPIDER-MAN?

BECAUSE IF YOU DON'T YOU SOON WILL.

I KEEP HAVING THIS DREAM.

BUT IT'S A SECRET -- THERE'S NO ONE I CAN TELL.

I HEAR THE SOUND OF MACHINERY... THE RUMBLE OF AN ENGINE...

UHH...

THERE'S A SOUND OF RUSHING WIND. AND I KNOW -- I JUST *KNOW* -- SOMETHING BAD IS GOING TO HAPPEN.

BOOM

SCREECH

THERE'S A TERRIBLE SOUND -- AN EXPLOSION, AND THEN...

...AND THEN, ANOTHER SOUND... AND I'M RUNNING TOWARDS IT... BUT I CAN'T GET THERE IN TIME...

SKREECH

AND THEN, THERE'S A VERY BRIGHT LIGHT...

NO.

OH, NO.

NO!

RRIIIINNNGG

...WE THINK IT HAPPENED ABOUT THREE HOURS AGO. THANKFULLY, THERE WAS NO ONE IN THE BUILDING AT THE TIME.

WE GOTTA GOOD DEAL OF EXPERIENCE WITH THIS KIND OF SITUATION: YOUR PRINCIPAL HERE'S BEEN SENSIBLE ENOUGH TO SEND THE STUDENTS HOME FOR TODAY.

THEY'LL PROBABLY TAKE THE WEEK OFF, AN' THEN GO BACK TO A DIFFERENT CLASSROOM WHILE THE CONSTRUCTION CREWS ARE IN. YOU CAN ANSWER THEIR QUESTIONS, BUT TRY NOT TO MAKE IT INTO A BIG DEAL.

I'M TOLD YOUR CLASSROOM WAS HIT THE WORST, MISTER PARKER. I'M AFRAID YOUR HAMSTER'S A GONER --

OSBORN

INDUSTRIES

DO WE KNOW WHAT HAPPENED, EXACTLY?

YEAH... THE DRIVER WAS DRUNK OUT OF HIS TINY LITTLE MIND AND SPEEDING THROUGH A HEAVY DOWNPOUR.

NEAR AS WE CAN TELL, HE VEERED OUT OF CONTROL OVER THERE. WE THINK HE LOST IT ON THE CURB AN' BLEW A TIRE.

'COURSE, IT DIDN'T HELP THAT HIS BLOOD ALCOHOL LEVEL WAS MORE THAN SIX TIMES TH' LEGAL LIMIT. HE PROBABLY PASSED OUT JUST BEFORE HE WENT INTO THE WALL.

MATTER OF FACT, YOUR MISS SMITH TELLS US YOU KNOW THE GUY -- YOU AN' HE USED TO ATTEND THIS SCHOOL TOGETHER. FLASH THOMPSON --?

WHAT?

MISTER PARKER --?

YEAH. THEY TOOK HIM OVER TO COUNTY. HE'S IN A PRETTY BAD WAY -- THAT AMOUNT OF ALCOHOL THINS YOUR BLOOD, MAKES IT DIFFICULT TO OPERATE.

THEY'RE NOT SURE IF HE'LL MAKE IT.

IT'S HAPPENING ALL OVER AGAIN.

THAT SAME OLD FEELING OF BEING IN SOMEONE'S GUNSIGHT, THAT SAME SENSE OF DREAD: ALL THOSE OLD, UNWANTED MEMORIES RUSHING TO THE SURFACE ON A WAVE OF BILE.

SEE, I KNOW THIS ROUTE LIKE THE BACK OF MY HAND -- I'VE BEEN THIS WAY A THOUSAND TIMES BEFORE.

THIS IS WHERE I USED TO VISIT *HARRY.*

COUNTY HOSPITAL: UP ACROSS TENTH TO THE FIRST UNION BUILDING, STRAIGHT OVER THE TUNNEL AND IN ACROSS THE NEXT DOOR CANNERY. I COULD DO THIS JOURNEY IN MY SLEEP.

INTENSIVE CARE UNIT

...YES, I KNOW. CAN YOU JUST GET A MESSAGE TO HIM? TELL HIM IT'S URGENT! OKAY.

JUST TELL HIM LIZ CALLED: FLASH THOMPSON'S HAD AN ACCIDENT AND HE'S AT COUNTY HOSPITAL. HE CAN CALL ME ON MY CELL PHONE... I'M TALKING TO THE DOCTOR RIGHT NOW --

I'M VERY SORRY, MRS. OSBORN -- I'M AFRAID I CAN'T GIVE YOU ANY DEFINITE NEWS ONE WAY OR ANOTHER. THE PATIENT'S STABLE FOR THE MOMENT, BUT HE'S SUFFERED A VERY SERIOUS HEAD TRAUMA.

IT'S EARLY IN THE GAME...

"...BUT THE CHANCES ARE, YOUR FRIEND HAS SUSTAINED PERMANENT AND IRREVERSIBLE BRAIN DAMAGE."

LOUD AND CLEAR, NORMAN.

LOUD AND CLEAR.

TO BE CONTINUED